

MISSISSIPPI ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. How many GED's this year? **3**
2. How many students we have served for ACT prep?
3. How many students are actively enrolled? **36**
4. How many students have made an educational gain? **22**
5. The total number of students we have served this year. **58**

The Smith County Adult Education Center in Taylorsville has become a hubbub of activity. Approximately 40 students are actively attending and working to increase their skills in reading, math, and language. Many are using computers for the first time, working interactive on-line lessons in addition to using workbooks and participating in one-on-one instruction. Other activities include frequent group discussions on current events, demonstrations of internet resources, presentations by guest speakers, as well as impromptu life skills lessons. We've even watched caterpillars eat, form chrysalides, and later emerge as butterflies.

Students range in age from 17 to 50+. Some come to gain the skills necessary to earn the GED. Others have already earned their diplomas but want to improve their skills for personal satisfaction, preparation for further studies, or better job opportunities. Whatever their goals, students are given assignments designed to meet their specific needs, as determined by diagnostic testing and counseling.

We're like a family here at the Smith County Adult Education Center. Students learn quickly that adult education classes provide an environment of encouragement, patience, peace, laughter, enthusiasm, acceptance, and optimism. It's not unusual for one student to show another how to work a problem or pronounce a word. It's also quite acceptable to correct the teacher if she makes a mistake!

Since July 1, 2008, approximately 58 students have completed at least 12 hours of instruction. Of those, at least 22 have attended enough hours to allow for post-testing and have demonstrated an educational gain of 1 or more levels in 1 or more subjects. Three students have passed the GED; several more are very close to passing.

Smith County Adult Education Center is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:00 am till noon and from 2:00 pm till 8:00 pm. The preferred time for new students to enroll is any Monday afternoon at 2:30. The more the merrier!